Dear Virginia, 7/13/93

We were delighted to learn that you have earned the party you are to be given if it hasn't happened already! 90! I wish I could set that as a target realistically! I have been in poor health since 1975 but I am still productive. A large book to be published soon and I'm half-way thorugh another.

The completed one has quite a story on the FBI.

In getting records under FOIA one must describe the information sought. You and Cliff were not within those requests and no records on either of you slipped in by accident.

You can still get them by asking. If you do I have a few suggestions. One is that you have someone on the request with you, like a son or daughter. That way you won't have the work to do and if they delay compliance and you do not live another 90 years the records will still come out and someone you trust will have them.

All you need do is write the FBI, Washington, DC headquarters, and I suggest the Birmingham field office, perhaps also Atlanta and New Orleans, a copy of the one request will do for all, saying that you are requesting all the records on or about you and your late husband, whatever the source or ~~origin~~ form, under FOIPA. The "P" is for the privacy act. Give a list of your addresses. Oh, yes, the Washington field office, too.

They do have a backlog but a lawyer might be able to do something about that because of your age. There are provisions for expedited processing.

Giving the social security numbers might be a good idea, might help in speeding some of it up.

There are proper exemptions but the FBI always abuses them, claiming them as an excuse to withhold, in toto or by redaction. However, I think if you just take what they give you you'll get as much as you want to read. The usual charge is 10¢ a page but there are also provisions for fee waivers.

When I read you book I asked Keck if he could get more. He sent one each to my friend Dave Wrone, History Professor, Univ. Wisconsin/Stevens point, and Gerald Ginocchip, sociology, Wofford, at Spartanburg. Wrone has already gotten more copies from Alabama and told me day before yesterday he will use it in his history courses this coming semester. When Lil finishes it I'm giving it to the local Hood College library. They enjoyed it, even the pain some of which we relived. (I gave 'em Hell" Hwupped 'em ever' time! If should I say Tahm?

Hood has started oral histories, one a week. Most pains become smoothed over, sort of rounded rather than sharp and pointed.

You might also consider that the records on Cliff and you would be worthwile for a university deposit, for study.

Dear, wonderful, so principled and courageous Virginia, we are happy for you, proud of you and we love you!

Harold